

8-1-2006

# Lawrence

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## Recommended Citation

Kala, Mandira and Jones, Charles, "Lawrence" (2006). *Gastón Institute Publications*. Paper 55.  
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The Mauricio Gastón Institute  
for Latino Community Development  
and Public Policy

## Lawrence

*by Mandira Kala and Charles Jones | August 1, 2006*

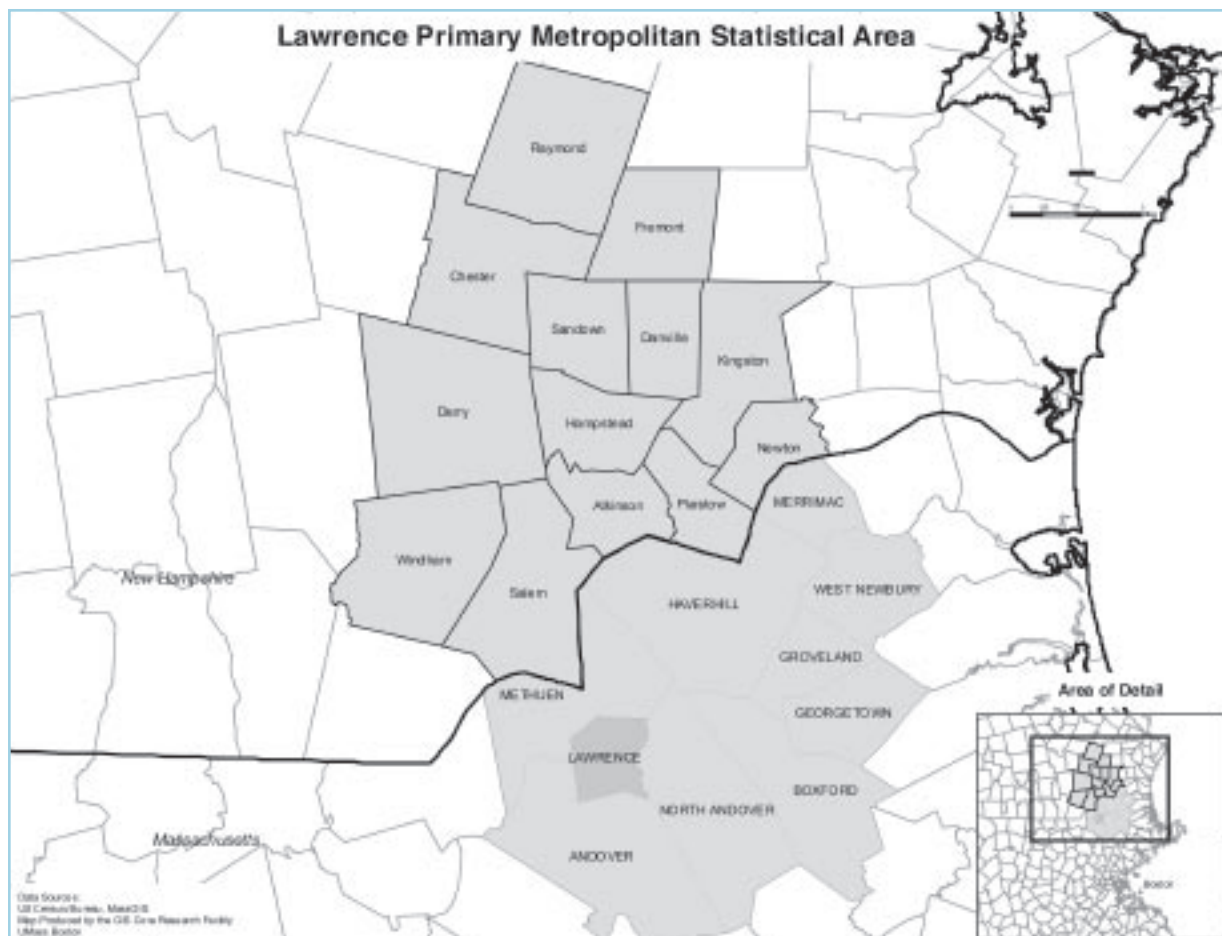
This fact sheet presents various economic, social, and demographic indicators pertaining to the Latino population in the Lawrence Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) and, when required, compares the Lawrence PMSA with the state of Massachusetts overall and with the other main areas of large Latino concentration, namely, the Boston and Worcester PMSAs and the Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).<sup>1</sup> In this fact sheet the term “Lawrence” refers to the complete PMSA and not just the city of Lawrence. The information for this fact sheet comes from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey of 2004.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A Metropolitan Statistical Area is a unit used by the U.S. Census but which is determined by the Office of Management and Budget. It is an area associated with at least one urbanized center with a population of at least 50,000 and which comprises a central county or counties (core) plus adjacent counties having a high degree of social and economic integration. The Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSAs) are the same as MSAs except that they are near (and economically/socially linked to) other PMSAs to form larger “CMSAs” – Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas that have a population of 1 million or more.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau 2005. American Community Survey 2004. Core Tables <[http://www2.census.gov/acs2004/Core\\_Tables/](http://www2.census.gov/acs2004/Core_Tables/)> Published 27 Aug 2005.

## The Lawrence Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area:

The PMSA of Lawrence comprises the cities and towns of Andover, Boxford, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverhill, Lawrence, Merrimac, Methuen, North Andover town and West Newbury in Essex County, MA and the towns of Atkinson, Chester, Danville, Derry, Fremont, Hampstead, Kingston, Newton, Plaistow, Raymond, Salem, Sandown, and Windham in New Hampshire.



December 2005 (OMB Bulletin No. 06-01) <http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metro-def.html>

## Population: Race, National Origin, and Nativity

**Race of the population:** Latinos make up 17.5% of the population in Lawrence, making this the region of highest Latino concentration in the state. Lawrence is close to Springfield in the diversity of the overall population, with Latinos composing the largest nonwhite racial-ethnic group followed by Asians and African Americans.

TABLE 1: POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY. 2004 (%)

	Massachusetts	Boston PMSA	Lawrence PMSA	Springfield MSA	Worcester PMSA
Total Population	6,201,416	3,274,585	422,228	560,472	523,569
Hispanic or Latino	7.7	6.6	17.5	14.1	7.9
White	80.3	79.0	75.6	75.7	83.7
Black or African American	5.6	6.6	2.2	6.7	3.1
American Indian and Alaska Native	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Asian	4.6	6.1	3.5	2.2	3.9
Some other race	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Two or more races	1.0	1.1	1.0	<1%	<1%

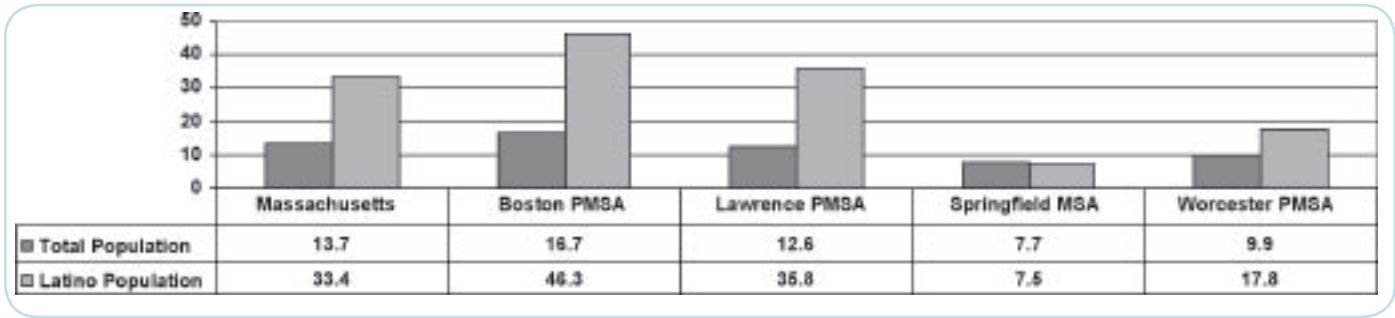
**National origin of the Latino population:** Exclusive to Lawrence is the fact that 50.2% of its Latino population is from the Dominican Republic. This is the largest concentration of Dominicans in the state. Puerto Ricans compose just under one third of the Latino population of the Lawrence PMSA.

TABLE 2: NATIONAL ORIGIN OF LATINO POPULATION (%)

	Massachusetts	Boston PMSA	Lawrence PMSA	Springfield MSA	Worcester PMSA
Total Latino	478,929	214,447	73,965	78,801	41,075
Puerto Rican	45.7	26.3	31.3	89.3	69.7
Dominican	15.6	13.9	50.2	1.8	2.9
Guatemalan	6.5	10.4	2.4	1.3	4.6
Salvadoran	6.0	11.3	<1%	<1%	<1%
Colombian	5.8	9.2	3.8	<1%	<1%
Mexican	3.9	4.6	<1%	3.6	6.6
Other Central American	5.0	9.0	2.0	<1%	<1%
Other South American	4.7	6.0	3.5	<1%	12.1
Other Hispanic or Latino	10.8	14.0	6.7	5.2	10.2

**Nativity of population** Because of the strong presence of Dominicans, the Lawrence area records a high percentage of foreign born among its Latino population (35.8%), second only to that of Boston. Lawrence also records a high percentage of foreign born (12.6%) as a proportion of its overall population.

FIGURE 1: FOREIGN BORN AS A % OF TOTAL AND LATINO POPULATIONS



## Age and Gender

**Age.** Lawrence is unique in that it has the youngest Latino population as compared with the state and other areas of high Latino concentration. Statewide, the median age for the Latino population is 26.5 years while for Latinos in the Lawrence PMSA it is only 23.3 years. The Latino population of Lawrence is also significantly younger than the overall population, whose median age is 37.3 years. These figures are better understood by the fact that 42% of the Latino population in Lawrence is under 20 years of age.

TABLE 3: MEDIAN AGE (IN YEARS) AND AGE DISTRIBUTION (IN %) OF TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION

	Massachusetts		Boston PMSA		Lawrence PMSA		Springfield MSA		Worcester PMSA	
	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino
Median Age	38.1	26.5	38.0	28.2	37.3	23.3	37.4	24.7	37.5	25.7
Under 5 years	6	11	7	10	8	14	6	10	6	10
5 to 19 years	19	27	18	25	23	28	20	31	19	25
20 to 24 years	6	9	6	7	7	12	7	9	7	13
25 to 64 years	56	50	57	56	53	44	53	46	57	52
65 and older	13	2	13	2	9	2	13	3	11	0

**Gender:** Among the total population in Lawrence, 48% are males and 52% females. Within the Latino population of Lawrence, the trend in gender distribution is reversed with males in a majority at 51% and females at 49%.

TABLE 4: GENDER OF TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION (%)

	Massachusetts		Boston PMSA		Lawrence PMSA		Springfield MSA		Worcester PMSA	
	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino
Total Population	6,201,416	478,929	3,274,585	214,447	422,228	73,965	560,472	78,801	523,569	41,075
% Female	52	51	52	49	52	49	52	52	51	55

## Economic Wellbeing

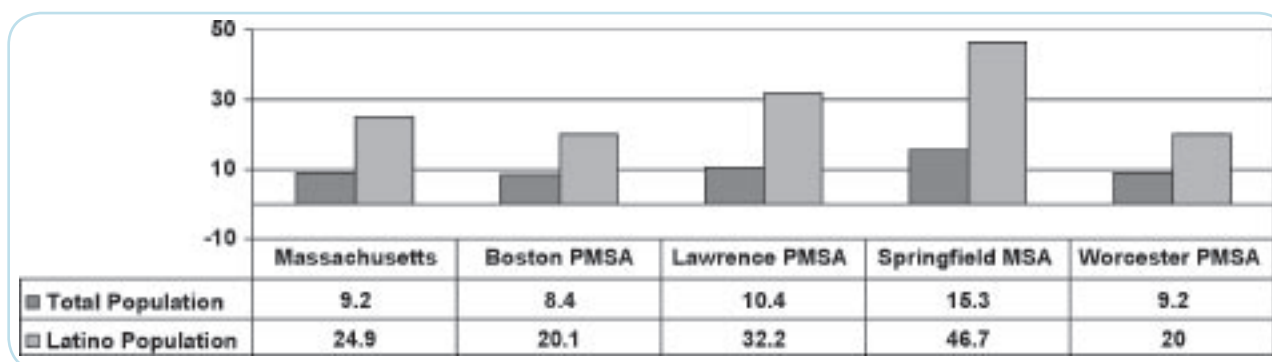
**Family Income:** Disparities in median family income, between the overall population and the Latino population, are significant in the Lawrence PMSA. Latino median family incomes are only 47% of the family incomes of the general population of the PMSA.

TABLE 5: MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME OF TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION

	Massachusetts		Boston PMSA		Lawrence PMSA		Springfield MSA		Worcester PMSA	
	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino
Median family income (in \$)	55,658	36,258	61,333	42,294	63,715	29,917	42,977	19,924	52,600	26,700
Latino median family income as a % of median family income of total population	65.1%		69.0%		47.0%		46.4%		50.8%	

**Poverty:** The disparities in income noted above are reflected in the high poverty rates experienced by Latinos in the Lawrence PMSA. Close to one third of Latinos are poor, more than three times the rate among the general population in this region.

FIGURE 2: POVERTY RATES FOR TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION (%)



## Composition of Families

**The composition of families.** About one third (33.9%) of Latino households in Lawrence are married couples. They are outnumbered by family households that are headed by a single person, either male or female (total of 39.7%). Non-family households make up slightly over one quarter of Latino households.

TABLE 6: FAMILY COMPOSITION OF TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION (% OF HOUSEHOLDS)

	Massachusetts		Boston PMSA		Lawrence PMSA		Springfield MSA		Worcester PMSA	
	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino
Married-couple family	48.3	34.7	47.9	39.0	54.8	33.9	42.3	17.9	47.2	33.1
Male householder, no wife present	3.9	9.4	3.9	12.4	4.1	7.7	5.0	6.9	3.7	4.5
Female householder, no husband present	12.1	32.7	11.4	26.8	12.6	32.0	15.2	42.2	10.7	30.1
Non-family households	35.7	23.1	36.8	21.8	28.5	26.4	37.4	32.9	38.3	32.3

## Educational Attainment

**Educational attainment of Latino adults.** Approximately 17% of Latino adults in Lawrence have less than a 9th grade education compared to 4.6% of the total population. However, nearly half (45.6%) of Latinos in this PMSA have had at least some college, 14.3% have Bachelor's degrees, and 5.8% have graduate or professional degrees.

TABLE 7: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF POPULATION OVER 25, OF TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION (%)

	Massachusetts		Boston PMSA		Lawrence PMSA		Springfield MSA		Worcester PMSA	
	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino
Less than 9th grade	4.6	17.7	3.7	16.1	4.6	16.6	6.0	27.1	4.4	20.4
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	7.2	15.9	6.2	16.7	7.3	9.2	10.0	18.1	8.0	15.1
High school graduate	27.9	31.3	25.6	30.2	26.6	28.6	31.1	29.3	28.7	35.0
Some college, no degree	15.3	13.9	13.9	11.6	17.9	21.2	17.1	13.4	16.3	13.1
Associate's degree	7.7	5.7	6.7	5.2	8.6	4.3	8.5	3.2	7.7	6.1
Bachelor's degree	21.8	10.2	24.2	12.5	22.0	14.3	15.1	7.1	22.2	4.0
Graduate or professional degree	15.6	5.3	19.2	7.8	13.1	5.8	12.4	1.8	12.8	6.4